

## 1997 CROP REVIEW

The combined value of production for small grain, hay, and late season row crops (excluding sugar beets) produced in 1997 totaled \$1.46 billion compared with the comparable value of \$1.32 billion for the 1996 crops. Colorado producers had a larger output in 1997 than they did in 1996 for corn grain and silage, sorghum silage, winter wheat, oats, barley, hay crops, sugar beets, and dry beans. Production was below the previous year for sorghum grain, spring wheat, rye, sunflowers, and potatoes.

The 1997 corn crop had a value of \$457.9 million, maintaining its rank as the leading crop produced in the state in terms of value of production. Corn for grain contributed \$398.5 million or 27.3 percent of the total value of all field crops. The 1997 crop of 150.38 million bushels was 13 percent larger than the 1996 crop of 133.48 million bushels. Producers harvested 1,030,000 acres for grain in 1997, up 10 percent from the previous year. The average yield of 146 bushels per acre was 4 bushels higher than the 1996 average. Corn silage production was up 28 percent from 1996 to 2.48 million tons as producers harvested more acres than a year earlier and obtained a higher average yield per acre.

All hay was the state's second leading crop in terms of value with a total value of production of \$453.53 million. The 1997 crop of 4.39 million tons was 8 percent above the 4.05 million tons produced in 1996. The 1997 alfalfa crop was valued at \$326.2 million, representing 72 percent of the all hay value. Producers harvested fewer acres than the previous year but higher per acre yields and prices resulted in a 9 percent increase in value. The other hay crop was valued at \$127.3 million, 37 percent higher than a year earlier. Producers harvested more acres, realized higher per acre yields, and received a higher price than the previous year.

The 94.7 million bushels of all wheat produced in 1997 was valued at just under \$308 million, keeping it ranked third in terms of value of production. The value declined 4 percent from \$320.9 million a year earlier. Winter wheat production, at 91.2 million bushels on 2.9 million acres harvested, was 30 percent higher than the 1996 crop. The 1997 average yield of 32.0 bushels per acre was the same as the 1996 average. Spring wheat production in 1997 dropped 31 percent from a year earlier. Producers harvested 26 percent fewer acres and experienced a 5 bushel decline in the average yield. Prices for the 1997 crop are expected to average well below the previous year.

The value of production of all potatoes is expected to rebound from the poor prices for the 1996 crop to a total of \$131.8 million for the 1997 crop. Prices were much improved from the previous year at the beginning of the 1997 marketing season and remained rather stable during the marketing season. Fall potato production

totaled 25.38 million cwt in 1997, down 13 percent from the record high 1996 crop. Both the acreage harvested and the average yield per acre were down from the previous year's record highs. The 1997 summer potato crop of 2.66 million cwt was 21 percent below the 1996 crop as a 22 percent reduction in the acres harvested more than offset a slight increase in the average yield per acre.

Dry bean production increased 1 percent from a year earlier to 2.28 million cwt but lower prices for the 1997 crop resulted in a 14 percent decline in total value to \$43.8 million in 1997. While no value has yet been determined for the 1997 crop of sugar beets, the 1.30 million tons of beets produced was up 28 percent from a year earlier. This was the largest production since 1981 when 1.7 million tons were harvested. The 1997 average yield of 19.7 tons per acre was 0.5 tons per acre below the 1996 average of 20.2 tons per acre.

Barley production increased 1 percent from 1996 to 10.08 million bushels in 1997 as a new record high yield of 112.0 bushels per acre more than offset a small decline in the acreage harvested. The 1997 crop value of \$30.7 million was up 1 percent from \$30.3 million for the 1996 crop. Sorghum for grain production totaled 5.6 million bushels in 1997, less than half the 13.26 million bushels produced in 1996. The harvested area dropped 46 percent to 140,000 acres and the average yield of 40.0 bushels per acre was 11 bushels below the record high of 51.0 realized from the 1996 crop. The 1997 oats production increased 5 percent from the previous year to 1.9 million bushels. Producers harvested 20 percent fewer acres than they did the previous year, but a sharp increase in the average yield per acre was more than offsetting.

The 1997 output of all sunflowers was valued at \$10.4 million compared with \$16.8 million for the 1996 crop. Sunflower production declined 32 percent from 1996 to 86.1 million pounds in 1997. Of this total, 56.4 million pounds were from oil varieties and 29.7 million pounds were from non-oil varieties. Growers harvested 47,000 acres of oil varieties, an increase of 3,000 acres from 1996. The acreage of non-oil varieties declined 30,000 acres to 33,000 acres.

Winter wheat seedings for the 1998 crop, at 2.95 million acres, were down 5 percent from the 3.1 million acres seeded for the 1997 crop. Planting began on schedule in most areas with generally favorable moisture supplies for germination and emergence. Winter moisture was limited in many areas but was generally sufficient to maintain favorable prospects in most areas. Dry topsoil in several areas raised concern for the crop during February, but mid-March and early April snow/rain improved prospects. More than 75 percent of the crop was rated in good or better condition as of mid-April.

# Field Crops: Acreage, production and value, Colorado, 1996-97

Year and Crop	Acreage planted	Acreage harvested	Yield per acre	Total production	Unit	Value per unit	Total value
<b>1996</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Units</b>		<b>Dollars</b>	<b>1,000 Dollars</b>
All wheat .....	3,070,000	2,268,000	33.3	75,500,000	Bu	4.26	320,855
Winter wheat .....	3,000,000	2,200,000	32.0	70,400,000	Bu	4.27	300,608
Spring wheat .....	70,000	68,000	75.0	5,100,000	Bu	3.97	20,247
Corn, all purposes .....	1,050,000	---	---	---	---	---	414,845
Corn for grain .....	---	940,000	142.0	133,480,000	Bu	2.76	368,405
Corn for silage .....	---	90,000	21.5	1,935,000	Tons	24.00	46,440
Sorghum, all purposes .....	290,000	---	---	---	---	---	33,064
Sorghum for grain .....	---	260,000	51.0	13,260,000	Bu	2.27	30,100
Sorghum for silage .....	---	12,000	13.0	156,000	Tons	19.00	2,964
Barley .....	100,000	92,000	108.0	9,936,000	Bu	3.05	30,305
Oats .....	80,000	35,000	52.0	1,820,000	Bu	2.24	4,077
Rye .....	28,000	3,000	25.0	75,000	Bu	3.41	256
Dry Beans <sup>1/</sup> .....	145,000	125,000	18.00	2,250,000	Cwt	22.50	50,625
Sugar beets .....	54,800	51,100	20.2	1,032,000	Tons	41.20	42,518
Sunflowers .....	110,000	107,000	1,185	126,800,000	Lbs	13.30 <sup>2/</sup>	16,844
Oil varieties .....	45,000	44,000	1,450	63,800,000	Lbs	10.80 <sup>2/</sup>	6,890
Non-Oil varieties .....	65,000	63,000	1,000	63,000,000	Lbs	15.80 <sup>2/</sup>	9,954
All hay .....	---	1,440,000	2.82	4,054,000	Tons	98.00	390,906
Alfalfa hay .....	---	860,000	3.50	3,010,000	Tons	99.00	297,990
All other hay .....	---	580,000	1.80	1,044,000	Tons	89.00	92,916
All potatoes .....	88,000	87,600	372	32,556,000	Cwt	1.90	60,542
Summer potatoes .....	10,000	9,800	345	3,381,000	Cwt	4.10	13,862
Fall potatoes .....	78,000	77,800	375	29,175,000	Cwt	1.60	46,680
<b>Total field crops .....</b>	---	5,510,700	---	---	---	---	1,364,837
<b>1997</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Units</b>		<b>Dollars</b>	<b>1,000 Dollars</b>
All wheat .....	3,153,000	2,900,000	32.7	94,700,000	Bu	3.30	307,950
Winter wheat .....	3,100,000	2,850,000	32.0	91,200,000	Bu	3.25	296,400
Spring wheat .....	53,000	50,000	70.0	3,500,000	Bu	3.30	11,550
Corn, all purposes .....	1,150,000	---	---	---	---	---	457,907
Corn for grain .....	---	1,030,000	146.0	150,380,000	Bu	2.65	398,507
Corn for silage .....	---	110,000	22.5	2,475,000	Tons	24.00	59,400
Sorghum, all purposes .....	180,000	---	---	---	---	---	17,631
Sorghum for grain .....	---	140,000	40.0	5,600,000	Bu	2.25	12,600
Sorghum for silage .....	---	18,000	13.0	234,000	Tons	21.50	5,031
Barley .....	95,000	90,000	112.0	10,080,000	Bu	3.05	30,744
Oats .....	70,000	28,000	68.0	1,904,000	Bu	2.00	3,808
Rye .....	28,000	3,000	23.0	69,000	Bu	3.40	235
Dry Beans <sup>1/</sup> .....	135,000	120,000	19.00	2,280,000	Cwt	19.20	43,776
Sugar beets .....	67,900	66,400	19.7	1,308,000	Tons	<sup>3/</sup>	<sup>3/</sup>
Sunflowers .....	85,000	80,000	1,076	86,100,000	Lbs	12.10 <sup>2/</sup>	10,395
Oil varieties .....	50,000	47,000	1,200	56,400,000	Lbs	10.90 <sup>2/</sup>	6,148
Non-Oil varieties .....	35,000	33,000	900	29,700,000	Lbs	14.30 <sup>2/</sup>	4,247
All hay .....	---	1,430,000	3.07	4,388,000	Tons	103.00	453,526
Alfalfa hay .....	---	820,000	3.90	3,198,000	Tons	102.00	326,196
All other hay .....	---	610,000	1.95	1,190,000	Tons	107.00	127,330
All potatoes .....	84,800	84,500	332	28,037,000	Cwt	4.70	131,774
Summer potatoes .....	7,800	7,600	350	2,660,000	Cwt	5.45	14,497
Fall potatoes .....	77,000	76,900	330	25,377,000	Cwt	4.60	117,277
<b>Total field crops .....</b>	---	6,099,900	---	---	---	---	1,457,746 <sup>4/</sup>

<sup>1/</sup> Yield, production, price, and value on clean basis.    <sup>2/</sup> Dollars per hundredweight    <sup>3/</sup> Not available.    <sup>4/</sup> Total excluding sugar beets.